

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 00324 180712Z
ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BELGRADE 0324

FOR EUR/RPM AND EUR/SOV FROM USDEL CSCE

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CSCE, OCON
SUBJ: BELGRADE CSCE -- FRG-GDR DEBATE CLOSING OF SPIEGEL'S
EAST BERLIN OFFICE

SUMMARY: LATEST SPIEGEL AFFAIR TOUCHED OFF RARE INNER-
GERMAN CSCE DISPUTE DURING JANUARY 17 PLENARY. GDR REP
CHARGED FRG BORE RESPONSIBILITY FOR RECENT CLOSING OF
MAGAZINE'S EAST BERLIN OFFICE BECAUSE IT ENCOURAGED OR
TOLERATED ARTICLES THAT PRECIPITATED ACTION WHILE FRG REP
READ LECTURE ON FREEDOM OF PRESS. END SUMMARY.

1. AS ADDRESSEES ARE AWARE, BOTH GERMAN DELS HAVE
TRADITIONALLY BEEN CAREFUL TO AVOID BRINGING INNER-GERMAN
PROBLEMS INTO CSCE DISCUSSIONS. SUBJECT WAS ALMOST WHOLELY
AVOIDED DURING 1973-1975 GENEVA NEGOTIATION AND SURFACED
ONLY SPORADICALLY DURING EARLY PHASE OF REVIEW OF
IMPLEMENTATION IN BELGRADE. AT JANUARY 17 PLENARY WHICH
MARKED RESUMPTION OF MEETING AFTER HOLIDAY RECESS,
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HOWEVER, FRG REP REFERRED TO UNSPECIFIED CLOSING OF A
NEWS OFFICE AND DENIAL OF VISAS TO FRG JOURNALISTS AS
INDICATION THAT MEETING'S CONCLUDING DOCUMENT SHOULD
REFLECT NEED FOR MORE BASKET THREE PROGRESS. GDR REP
ROSE TO BAIT, SAYING THAT INCIDENT WAS WELL-KNOWN AND
THAT GOVERNMENTS WHICH ENCOURAGE OR TOLERATE SUCH
ACTIVITIES OF THEIR NEWS ORGANS MUST BEAR FULL RESPONSIBI-

BILITY FOR COUNTERACTION OF A STATE THAT IS MERELY EXERCISING AND PROTECTING ITS SOVEREIGNTY. HE CHARGED THAT FRG HAD TURNED BACK 200,000 PEOPLE AT ITS BORDERS IN 1976 AND 85,000 IN FIRST HALF OF 1977 AND ALLEGED THAT GDR HAD ONE OF FREEST VISITOR REGIMES IN WORLD BUT THAT IN REFUSING TO ALLOW CERTAIN JOURNALISTS TO ENTER IT WAS MERELY EXERCISING NORMAL RIGHTS OF SOVEREIGN. GDR REP SAID, HOWEVER, THAT HONECKER HAD RECENTLY EXPRESSED GDR'S DESIRE TO IMPROVE BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH FRG. FRG REP REBUTTED THAT SPECIFIC FRG-GDR PROBLEMS WERE BEING RAISED IN APPROPRIATE BILATERAL CHANNELS BUT THAT GOVERNMENT OF A STATE WITH FREEDOM OF PRESS COULD NOT BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR ARTICLES PRINTED BY THAT PRESS.

2. NEITHER GERMAN REP REFERRED TO SPIEGEL BY NAME OR DESCRIBED ARTICLES WHICH ANGERED GDR.
GOLDBERG

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